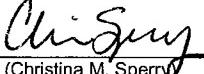


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system on the date set forth below.

Dated: 1/15/08 Signature:   
(Christina M. Sperry)

Docket No.: 101896-0242  
(DEP5294)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark C. Boomer et al.

Application No.: 10/709,246

Confirmation No.: 3245

Filed: April 23, 2004

Art Unit: 3733

For: SPINAL IMPLANT CONNECTORS

Examiner: M. C. Hoffman

### AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Applicant submits this paper in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2007.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.

A copy of the **Pending Claims** is attached hereto. No claim amendments are made.